

MARVEL
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COMICS
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AUTHORITY

X-FACTOR



SILVESTRI
+ RUBINSTEIN

MANY PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT THE EMERGENCE OF **MUTANTS** SOUNDED THE DEATH KNELL FOR **HUMANITY**, FOR MUTANTS WERE BORN WITH AN **X-FACTOR** IN THEIR GENETIC STRUCTURE WHICH ENDOWED THEM WITH MORE-THAN-HUMAN ABILITIES.

THE FEAR THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO THE DESTRUCTION OF HUMANITY APPEARED WELL FOUNDED, FOR SOME MUTANTS FELL PREY TO UNBRIDLED AGGRESSION AND GREED!

YET OTHERS--LIKE THE **X-MEN**--STOOD AGAINST THESE "**EVIL MUTANTS**" TO PROTECT HUMANITY--A HUMANITY THAT WAS BEGINNING TO HATE AND FEAR ALL OF THEIR KIND INDISCRIMINATELY!

POWERFUL AS THE MUTANTS WERE, HUMANS STILL ENORMOUSLY OUT-NUMBERED THEM, AND SOME MALEFACTORS, FEARING A DAY OF RECKONING, HASTENED TO MAKE DEALS WITH HUMANITY'S POWER-BROKERS...

AND SO, BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT, TWO YOUNG MUTANTS ARE HUNTED BY THEIR OWN KIND--GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED BOUNTY HUNTERS KNOWN AS **FREEDOM FORCE**!

FREEDOM FORCE ARRESTS YOU, RUSTY COLLINS, IN THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!

BLOB-- TAKE THEM!

NO! KEEP BACK! I'M WARNING YOU!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

SPOTS!

LOUISE
SIMONSON
WRITER

TERRY
SHOEMAKER
PENCILER

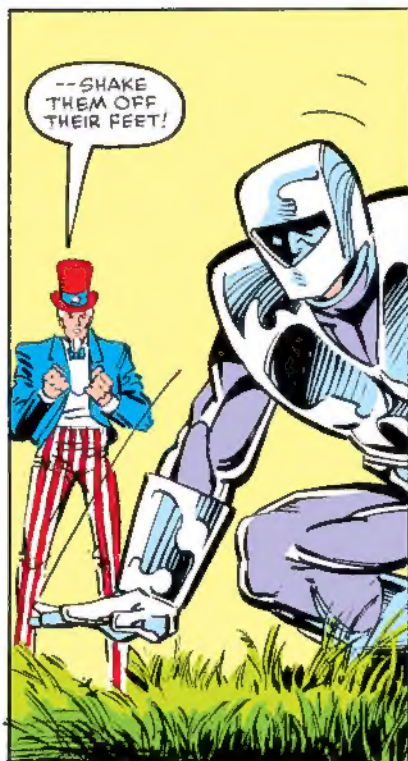
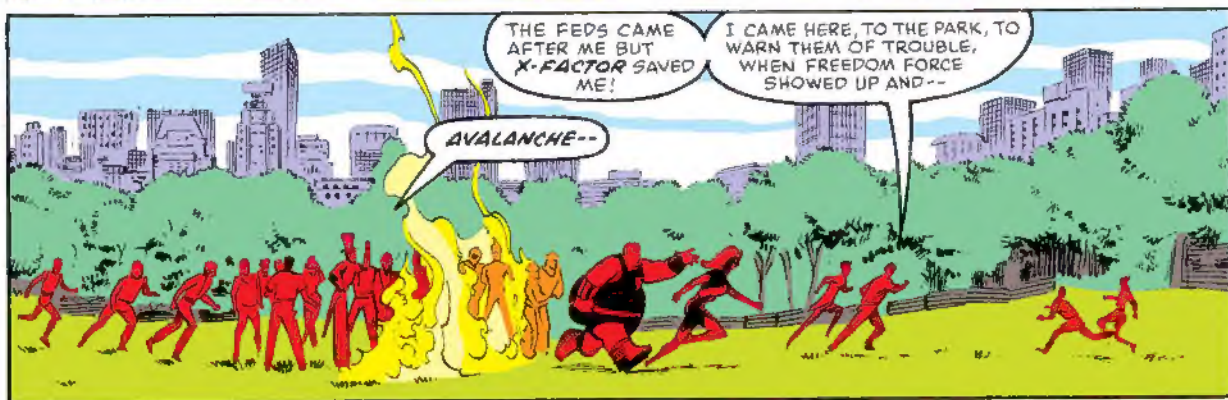
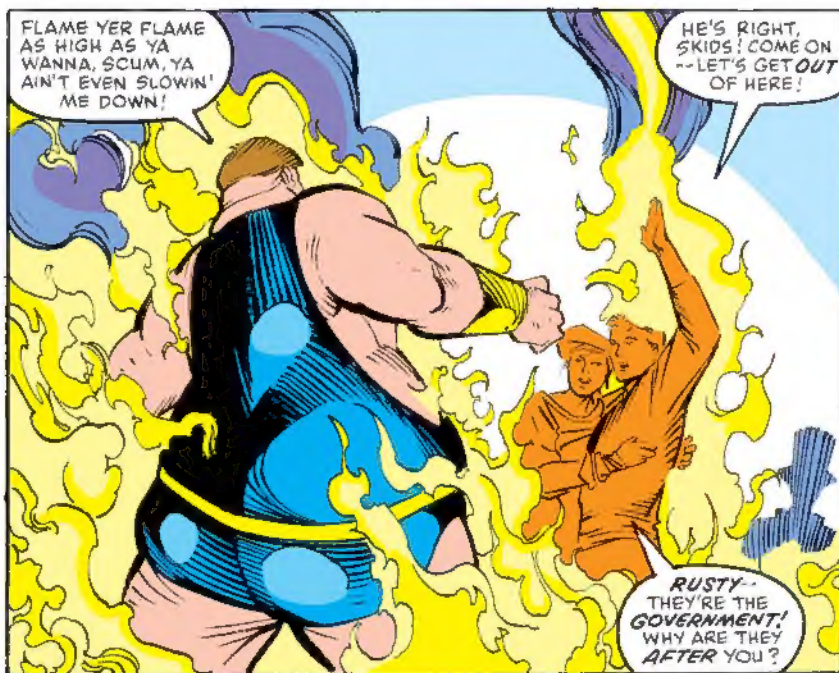
JOE
RUBINSTEIN
INKER

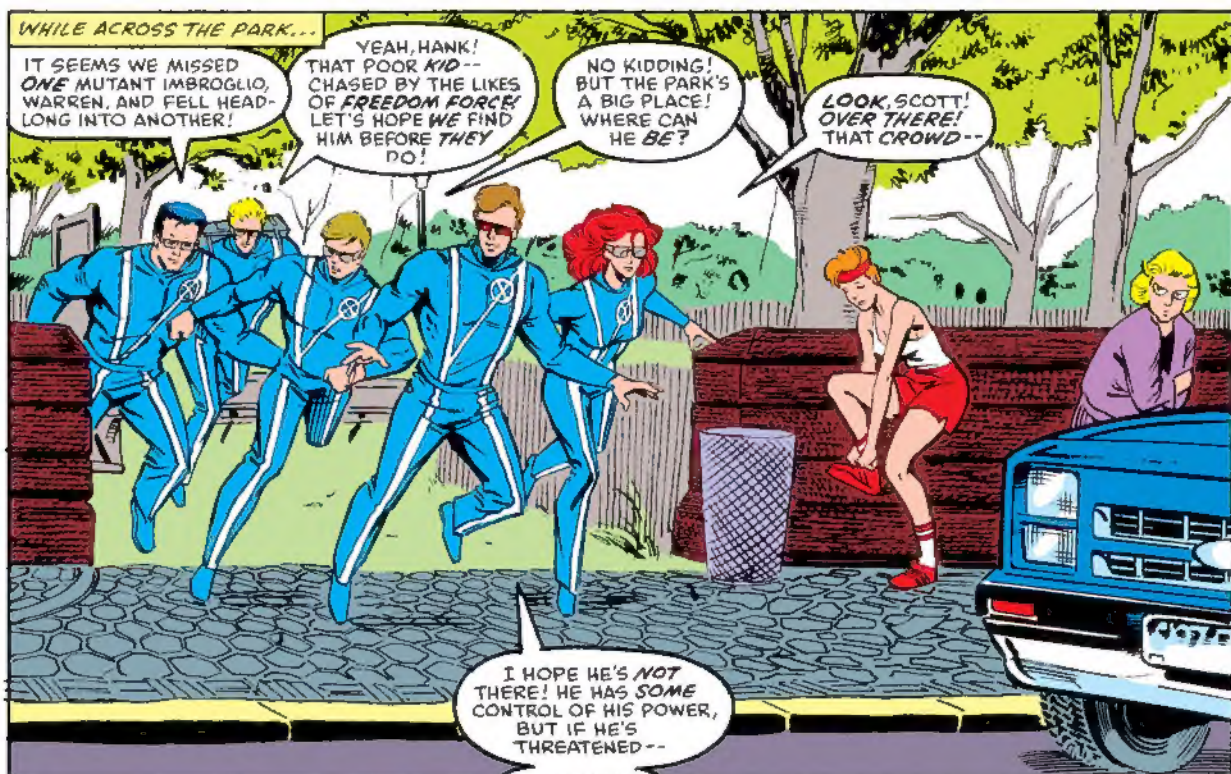
JOE
ROSEN
LETTERER

PETRA
SCOTSE
COLORIST

BOB
HARRAS
EDITOR

JIM
SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF



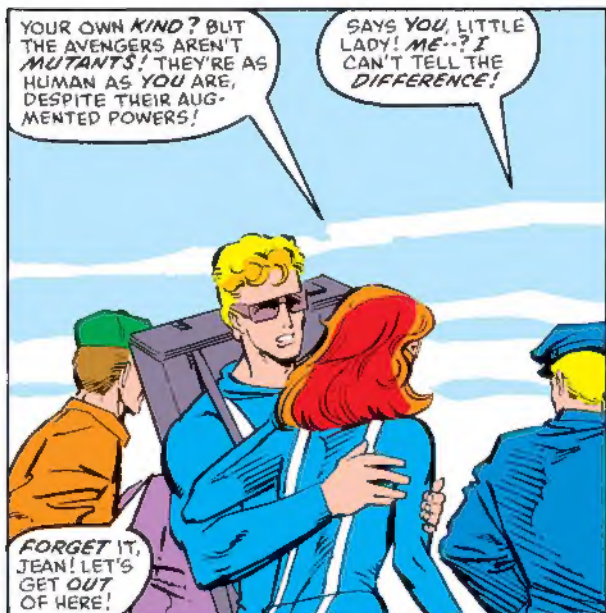




LISTEN, OFFICER, **X-FACTOR** APPRECIATES THE CITY'S VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU SUMMON THE **AVENGERS**?

THEIR **HEAD-QUARTERS** IS RIGHT DOWN THE STREET AND--

WELL, WE DON'T EXACTLY **TRUST** THEM, SEE? BETWEEN YOU AND ME, WE'D RATHER COUNT ON OUR **OWN KIND**!



YOUR **OWN KIND**? BUT THE **AVENGERS** AREN'T **MUTANTS**! THEY'RE AS **HUMAN** AS YOU ARE, DESPITE THEIR AUGMENTED POWERS!

SAYS YOU, LITTLE LADY! **ME--? I CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE!**

FORGET IT, JEAN! LET'S GET **OUT** OF HERE!



...YOUR PLANS TO PREVENT FUTURE **ATTACKS** ON THE **X-FACTOR** COMPLEX?

...RESTORATION OF THE AREA **DAMAGED** IN THE BATTLE?

...**INJURIES** AND **DEATHS** CAUSED BY THESE **MUTANT** ATTACKS?

SORRY, GENTLEMEN! THAT'S IT!



YOU KNOW, SCOTT! IT **IS** EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY **MUTANTS** ARE FEARED!

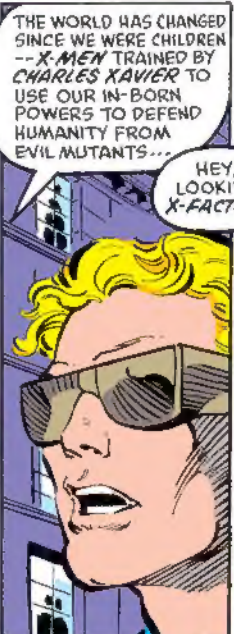


NO KIDDING, JEANIE! I'D LIKE TO SMASH THE **JERKS** WHO TORE UP THE PARK!

HOW CAN ANY GROUP PULL A STUNT LIKE THAT AND MAKE **ANYBODY'S** TOP TEN LIST?



WE'VE CAUSED SIMILAR DESTRUCTION IN OUR TIME, BOBBY! WE DON'T KNOW WHO WAS FIGHTING...OR WHY? HOW CAN WE JUDGE THE JUSTICE OF THEIR CAUSE?



THE WORLD HAS CHANGED SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN -- **X-MEN** TRAINED BY **CHARLES XAVIER** TO USE OUR IN-BORN POWERS TO DEFEND HUMANITY FROM EVIL **MUTANTS**...



HEY, LOOKIT! **X-FACTOR**!

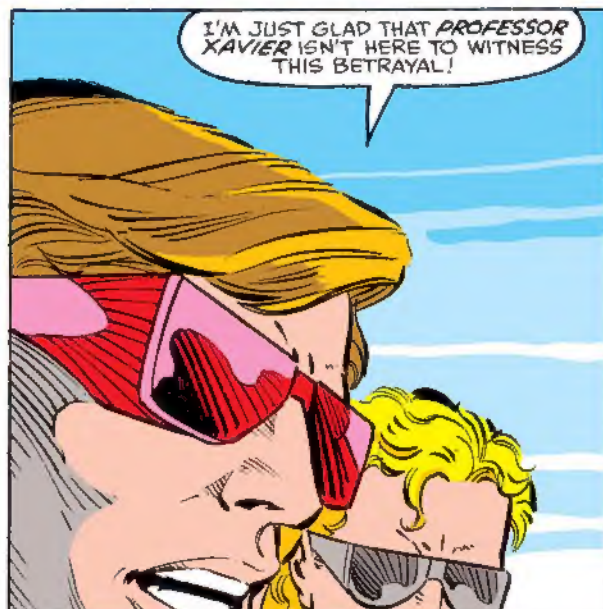
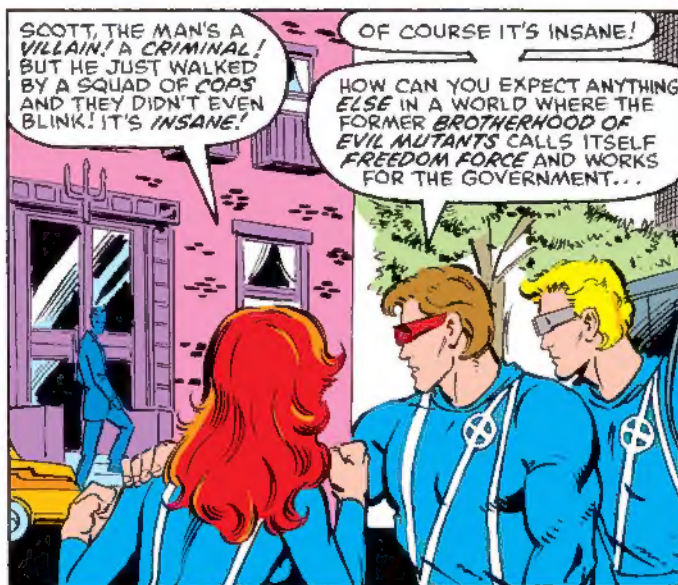
THEY'LL TRASH THOSE **MUTIES**, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

...HUNT THOSE **INHUMAN MONSTERS** DOWN AND GET **RID** OF THEM!



AND OUR **GOALS** HAVE CHANGED AS WELL, HAVEN'T THEY? WE PASS AS **HUMANS**-- HUNT DOWN OUR **OWN KIND** TO SAVE THEM FROM AN EVIL **HUMANITY** THAT--

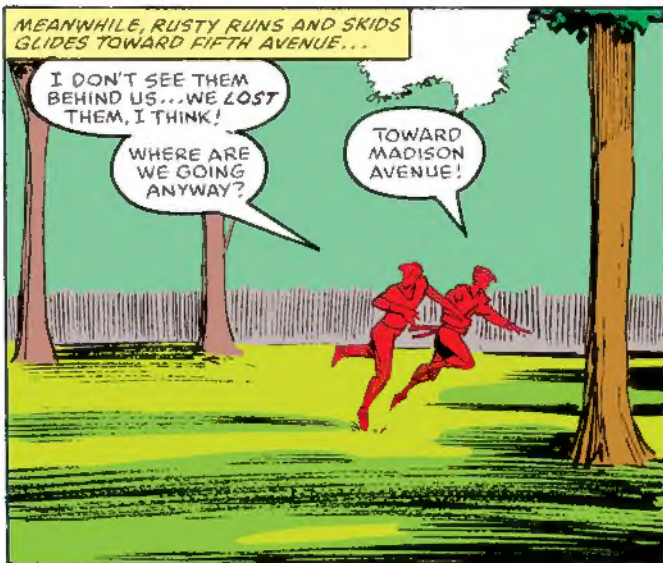
SCOTT-- SCOTT, LOOK!





AND WE STILL HAVE A JOB TO DO! RUSTY RISKED HIS LIFE TO WARN US OF DANGER!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM BEFORE THEY DO! BUT--HOW?



MEANWHILE, RUSTY RUNS AND SKIDS GLIDES TOWARD FIFTH AVENUE...

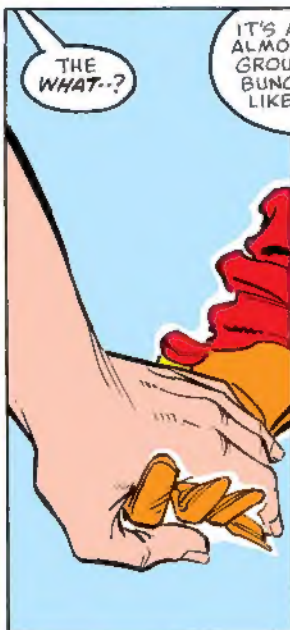
I DON'T SEE THEM BEHIND US...WE LOST THEM, I THINK!

WHERE ARE WE GOING ANYWAY?

TOWARD MADISON AVENUE!



THERE'S A GRATING ON 67TH STREET THAT LEADS TO THE MORLOCKS' ALLEY AND--



THE WHAT--?

IT'S A HUGE TUNNEL, ALMOST A MILE UNDERGROUND, WHERE A BUNCH OF MUTANTS... LIKE YOU AND ME... LIVE!

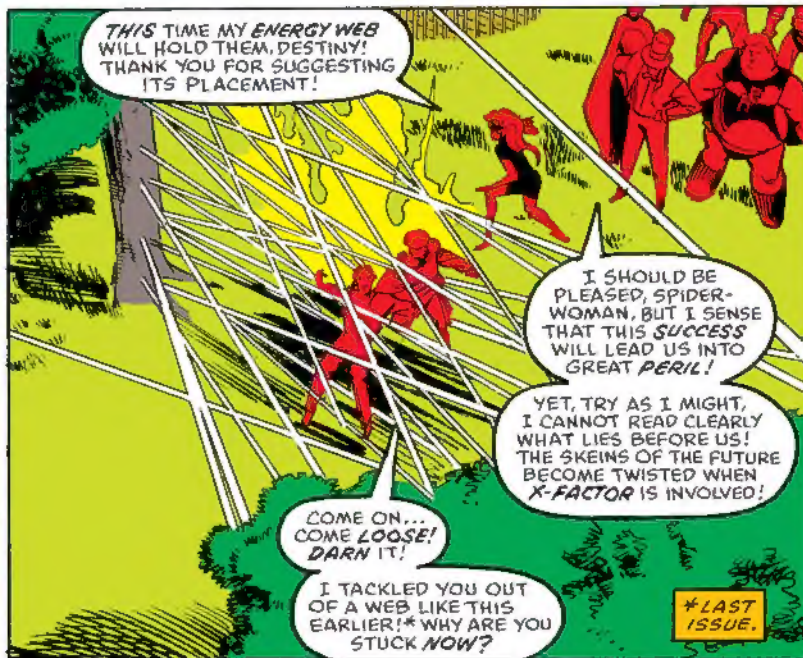


WE CALL OURSELVES THE MORLOCKS-- LIKE IN THAT H.G. WELLS BOOK--AND WE'VE GIVEN UP ON THIS SOCIETY AND MADE OUR OWN!



I'LL TAKE YOU THERE! IN THE ALLEY, WE ALL LIVE IN PEACE, NO HASSLES FROM MUTANT HUNTERS OR--

YEE!!



THIS TIME MY ENERGY WEB WILL HOLD THEM, DESTINY! THANK YOU FOR SUGGESTING ITS PLACEMENT!

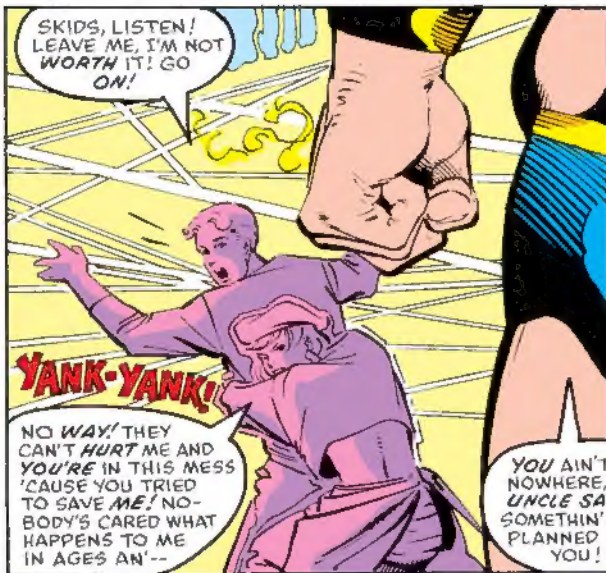
I SHOULD BE PLEASED, SPIDER-WOMAN, BUT I SENSE THAT THIS SUCCESS WILL LEAD US INTO GREAT PERIL!

YET, TRY AS I MIGHT, I CANNOT READ CLEARLY WHAT LIES BEFORE US! THE SKEINS OF THE FUTURE BECOME TWISTED WHEN X-FACTOR IS INVOLVED!

COME ON... COME LOOSE! DARN IT!

I TACKLED YOU OUT OF A WEB LIKE THIS EARLIER! *WHY ARE YOU STUCK NOW?

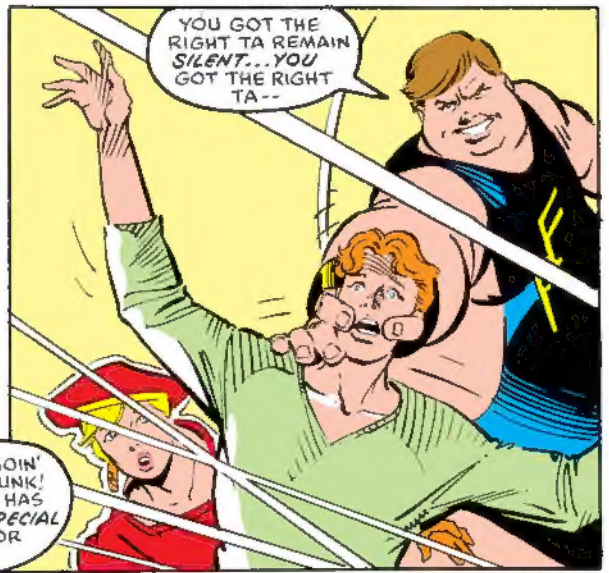
*LAST ISSUE.



SKIDS, LISTEN!
LEAVE ME, I'M NOT
WORTH IT! GO
ON!

YANK-YANK!

NO WAY! THEY
CAN'T HURT ME AND
YOU'RE IN THIS MESS
'CAUSE YOU TRIED
TO SAVE ME! NO-
BODY'S CARED WHAT
HAPPENS TO ME
IN AGES AN--



YOU GOT THE
RIGHT TA REMAIN
SILENT... YOU
GOT THE RIGHT
TA--

YOU AIN'T GOIN'
NOWHERE, PUNK!
UNCLE SAM HAS
SOMETHIN' SPECIAL
PLANNED FOR
YOU!



HEY, PYRO, YOU PANSY!
LIGHT UP MY LIFE A
LITTLE! THE GIRLS
INTERFERIN' WITH
RUSTY'S ARREST!
BURN HER!

IF YOU WISH, BLOB,
THOUGH, AS WE NOTED
EARLIER, THE GIRL
DOESN'T BURN!

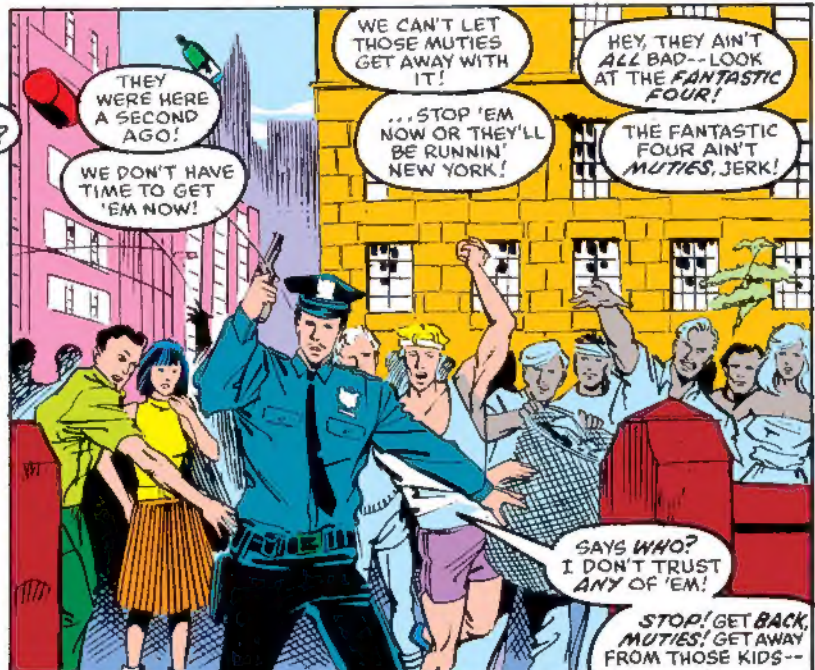
HEY,
LOOK!
MUTIES!

ATTACKIN'
SOME
HUMANS!



STOP THAT!
LEAVE THEM
ALONE!

WHERE'S
X-FACTOR?



THEY WERE HERE
A SECOND
AGO!

WE DON'T HAVE
TIME TO GET
'EM NOW!

WE CAN'T LET
THOSE MUTIES
GET AWAY WITH
IT!

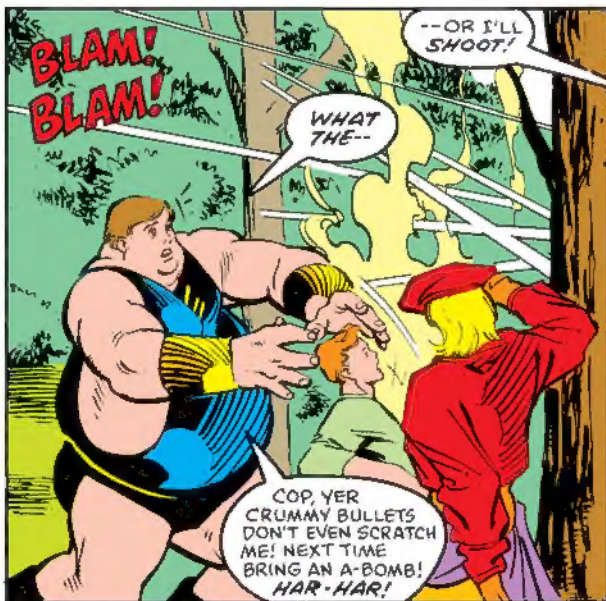
...STOP 'EM
NOW OR THEY'LL
BE RUNNIN'
NEW YORK!

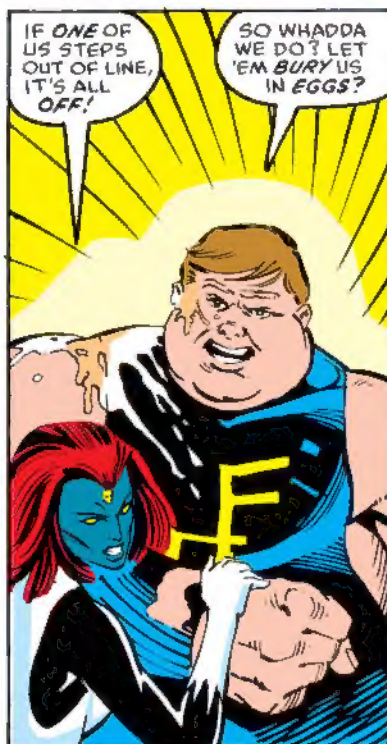
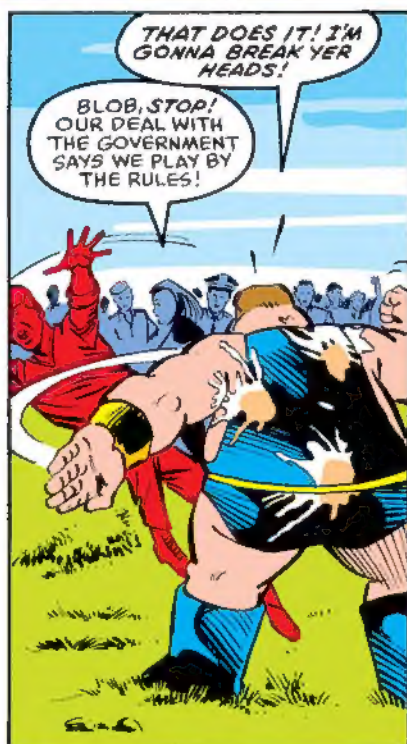
HEY, THEY AIN'T
ALL BAD--LOOK
AT THE FANTASTIC
FOUR!

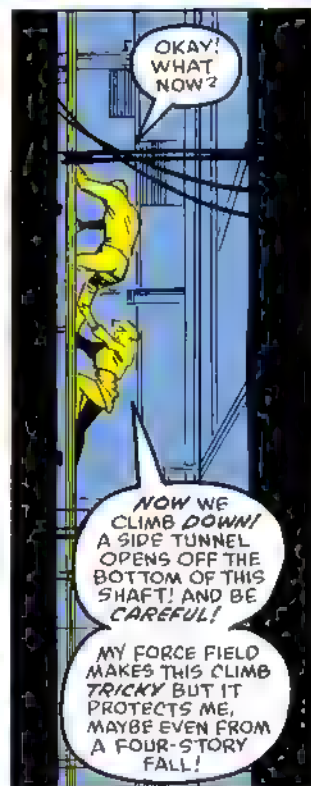
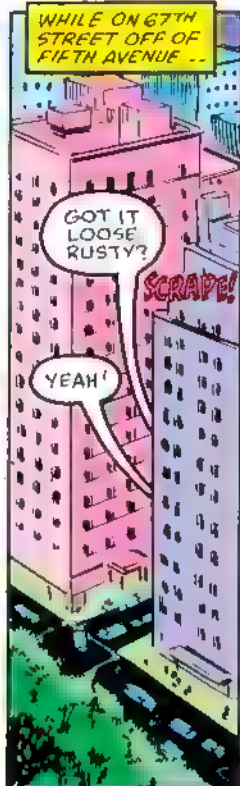
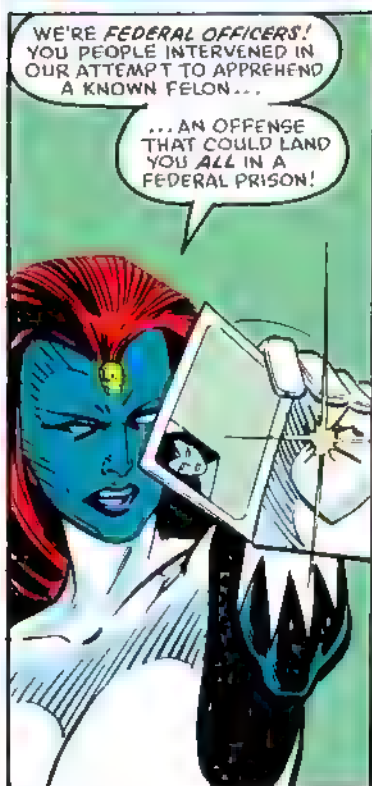
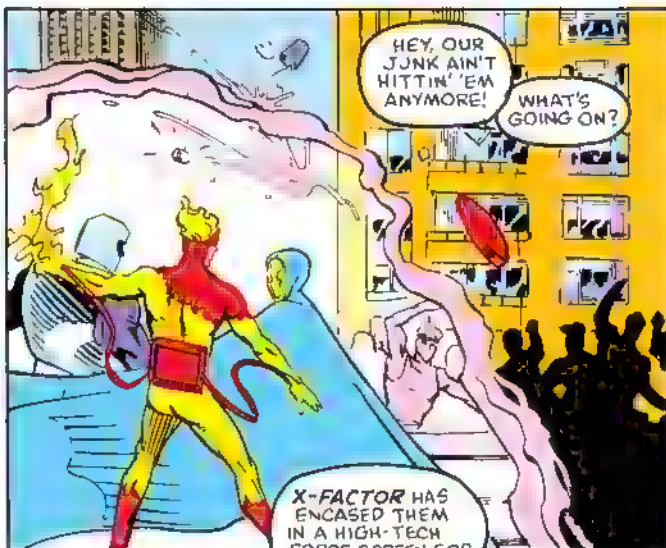
THE FANTASTIC
FOUR AIN'T
MUTIES, JERK!

SAYS WHO?
I DON'T TRUST
ANY OF 'EM!

STOP! GET BACK,
MUTIES! GET AWAY
FROM THOSE KIDS--









MEANWHILE...

...COULDA TRASHED 'EM? WHY'D THEY LET 'EM GO?

...NO CHOICE, THEY'RE WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT!

...CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION!

...MAKES SENSE FOR THE FEDS TO HAVE TAME MUTIES...THE RUSKIES DO!

TAME OR NOT MUTIES IS FREAKS... NO MATTER WHO THEY WORK FOR...



IT BURNS ME THAT THOSE CREEPS CAN JUST WALK AWAY!

IT'S THE BEST OF TWO BAD CHOICES, BOBBY!

AND AT LEAST RUSTY HAS ESCAPED...

FOR NOW!



RUSTY HAS ENTERED THE TUNNELS BENEATH MANHATTAN, BUT I AM UNABLE TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME SHOULD WE FOLLOW! ALL I SEE THERE IS DEATH!

BUT FOLLOW WE MUST! OUR PARDON IS CONTINGENT UPON PERFORMANCE!



IT DOESN'T TAKE PRECOGNITION TO FORESEE A BAD TIME FOR MUTANTS AHEAD!

I'VE MADE WHAT DEALS I CAN TO PROTECT US, BUT WE HAVE TO DELIVER!

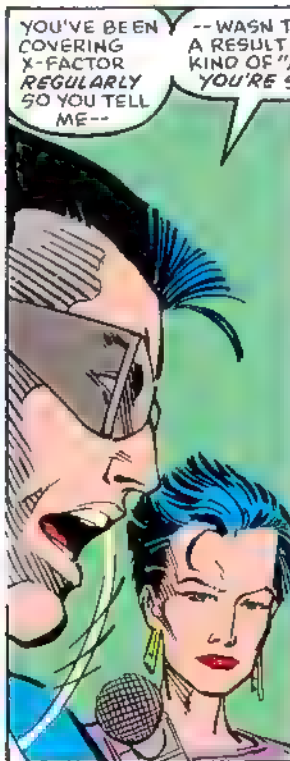
TELL ME SOMETHING--



--HOW CAN X-FACTOR SPONSOR A MUTANT SMEAR CAMPAIGN, THEN CHAMPION THEM?

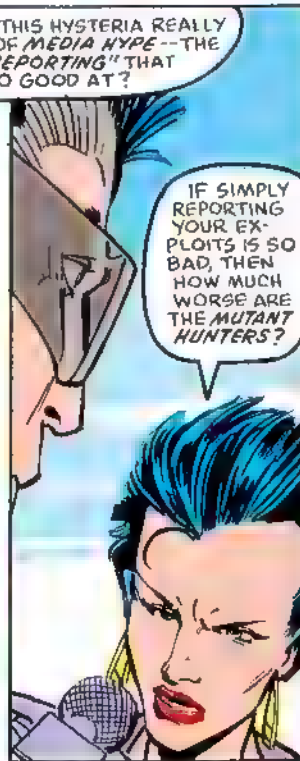
WHAT DOES X-FACTOR REALLY STAND FOR?

NOT FOR VIGILANTISM, DESPITE OUR ADVERTISING! CERTAINLY NOT FOR MURDER!



YOU'VE BEEN COVERING X-FACTOR REGULARLY SO YOU TELL ME--

--WASN'T THIS HYSTERIA REALLY A RESULT OF MEDIA HYPE--THE KIND OF "REPORTING" THAT YOU'RE SO GOOD AT?



IF SIMPLY REPORTING YOUR EX-POITS IS SO BAD, THEN HOW MUCH WORSE ARE THE MUTANT HUNTERS?



HOW CAN YOU EVEN PRETEND YOU'RE AGAINST VIGILANTISM AND VIOLENCE?

THIS IS POINTLESS! COME ON, PEOPLE, LET'S GO HOME!

MEANWHILE, THE MORNING
SUNLIGHT SHINES ON THE
X-FACTOR COMPLEX...

AND ON THE YOUNG
MUTANT WITHIN

ARTIE MADDICKS CAN'T
SPEAK OR WRITE BUT
THE X-FACTOR IN HIS
GENETIC STRUCTURE
ALLOWS HIM TO "PICK
UP" IMAGES OF EVENTS
THAT HAPPEN ELSE-
WHERE AND "PROJECT"
THEM FOR ALL TO SEE...

AND NOW HE
WATCHES HIS
BEST FRIEND
AND HERO
RUSTY COLLINS
CLAMBER
THROUGH
TUNNELS UNDER-
GROUND...

...AND WORRIES, BE
CAUSE AS BAD AS THOSE
WHO CHASE HIM ARE...

...BEFORE
HIM IN THE
TUNNELS,
ARE BEINGS
WHO ARE
MUCH, MUCH
WORSE!*

...X-FACTOR'S PUBLIC
RELATIONS DIRECTOR
WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO!

HE'S GOT TO TELL
CAMERON HODGE...

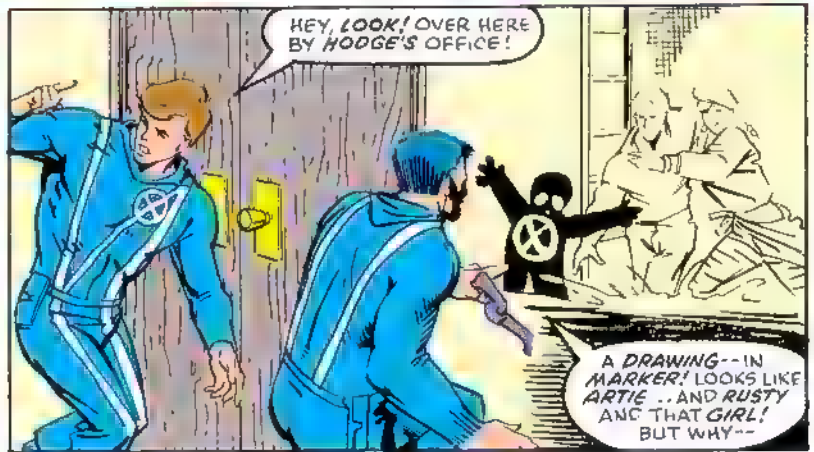
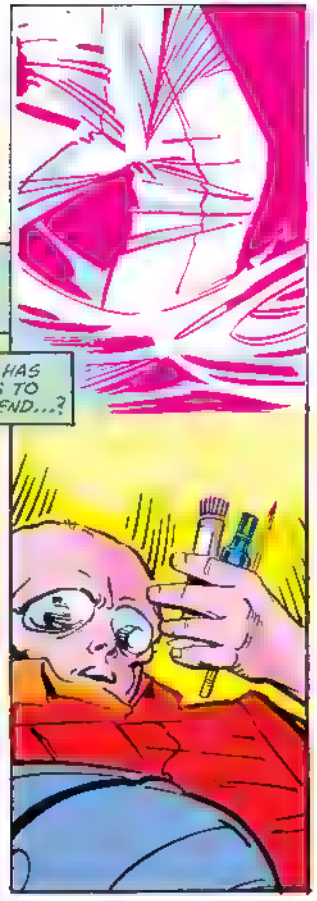
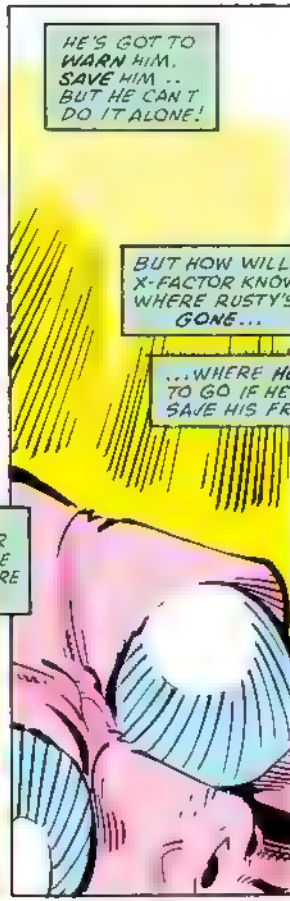
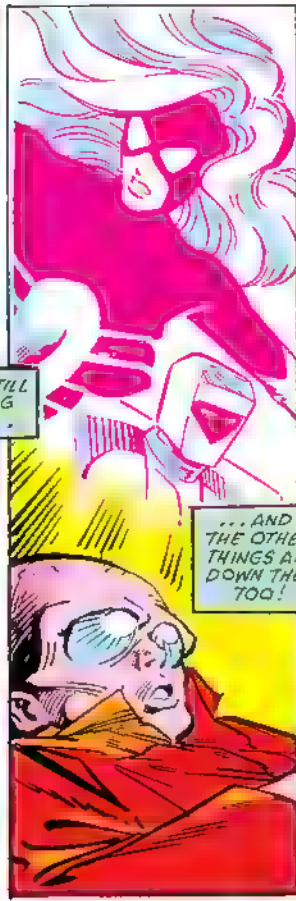
ONE
MOMENT,
SIR, WE
HAVE A
LITTLE
PROBLEM
DEVELOP-
ING HERE!

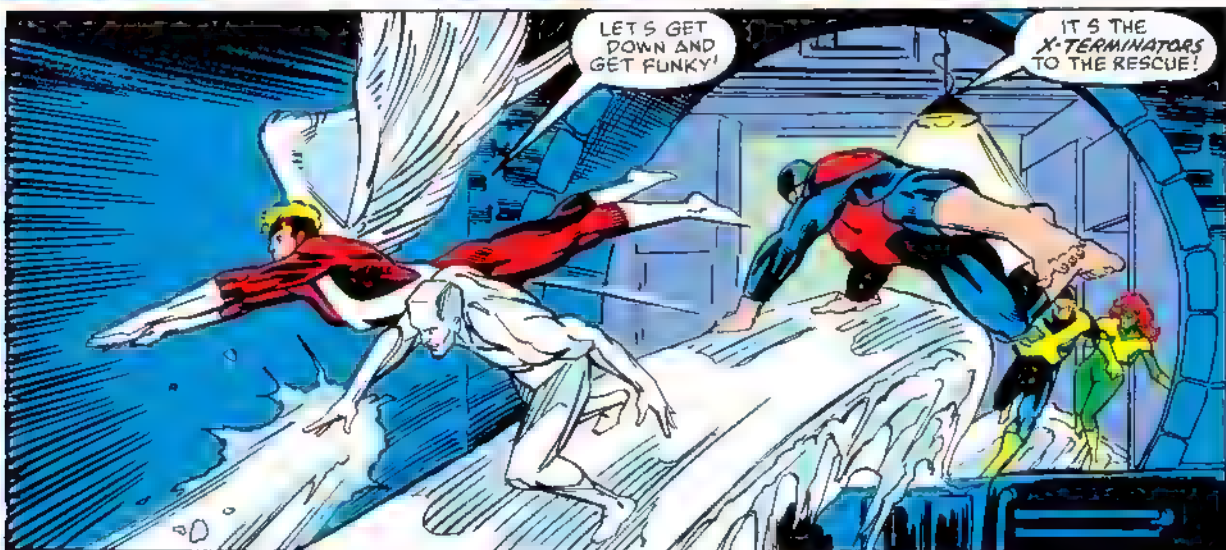
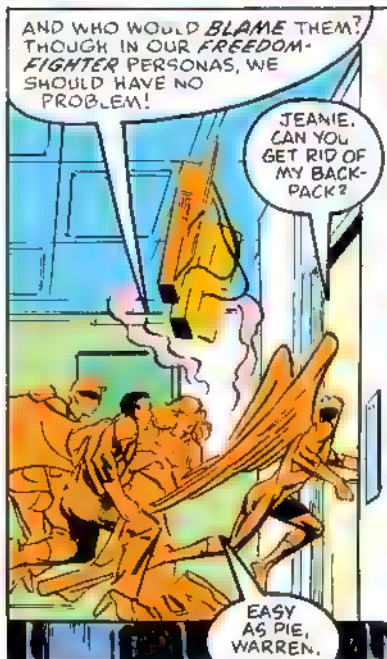
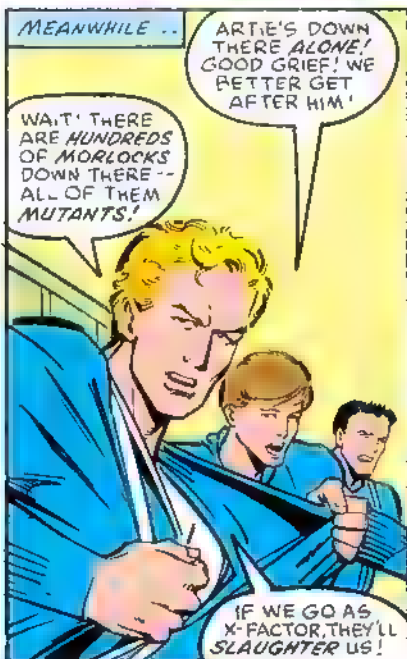
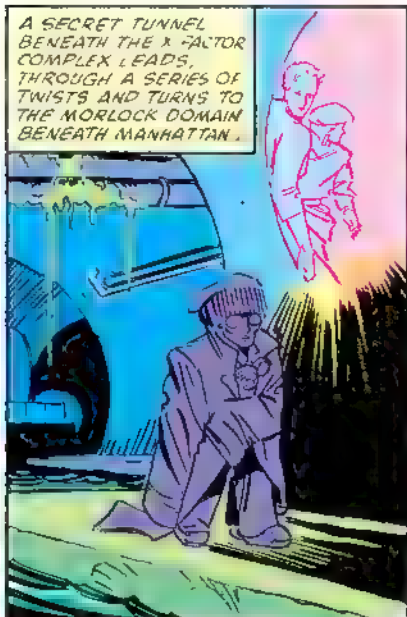
*TO UNDERSTAND
WHAT ARTIE IS
SEEING SEE
A MEN # 210!

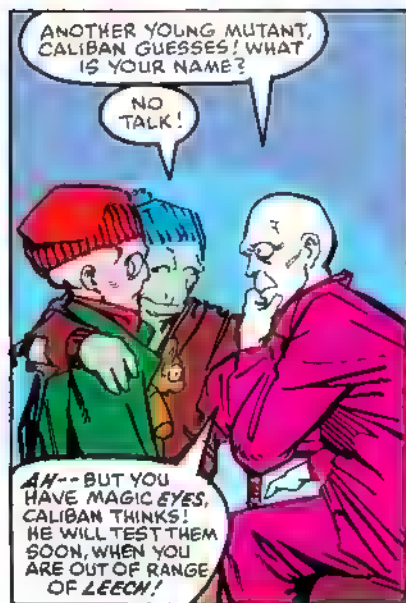
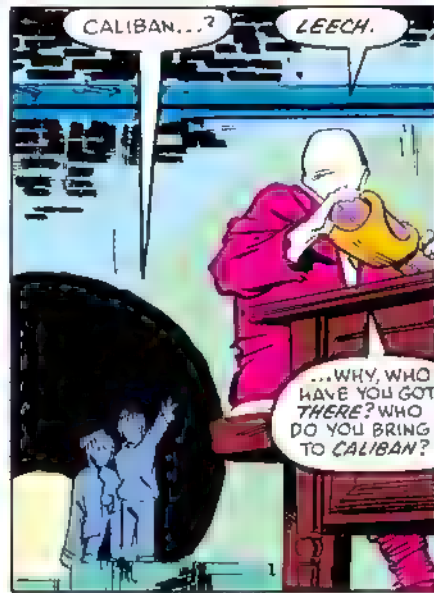
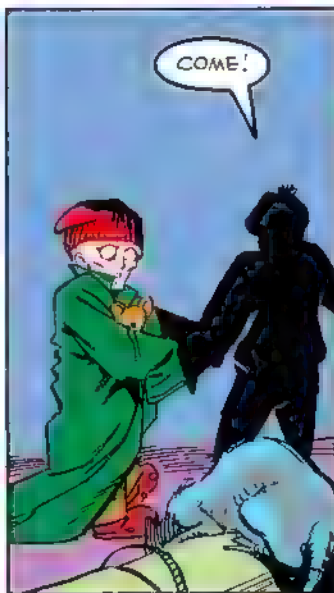
N-NO SIR!
NOTHING I
CAN'T HANDLE!

WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE? CAN'T
YOU SEE I'M BUSY?

GET OUT!
GO HAVE
YOUR NASTY
LITTLE FIT
SOMEWHERE
ELSE!



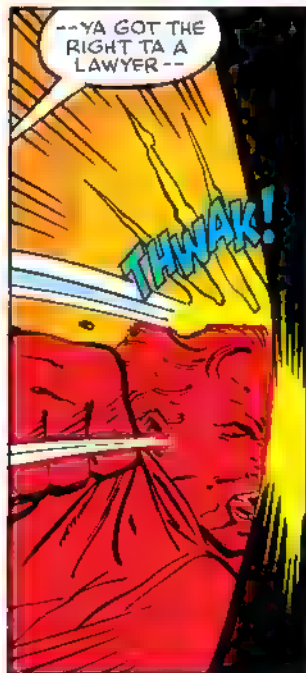
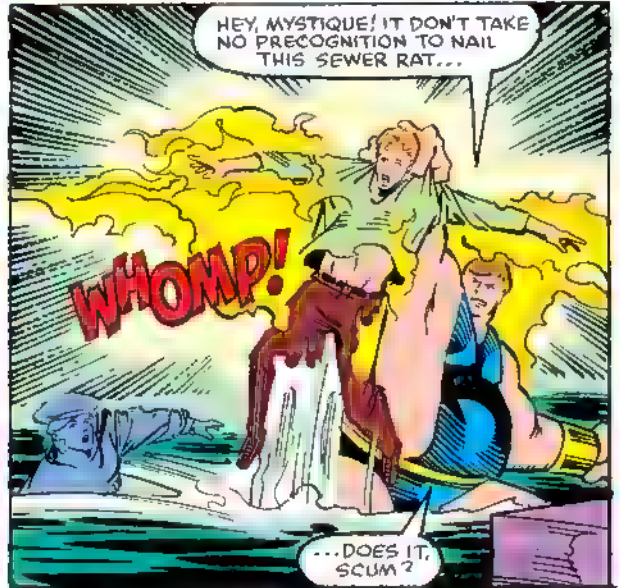
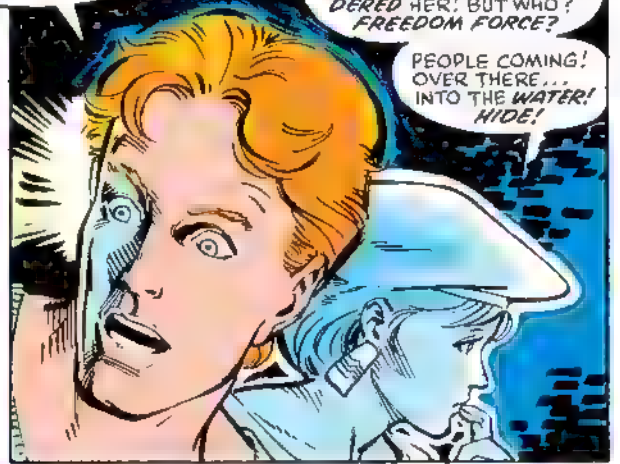


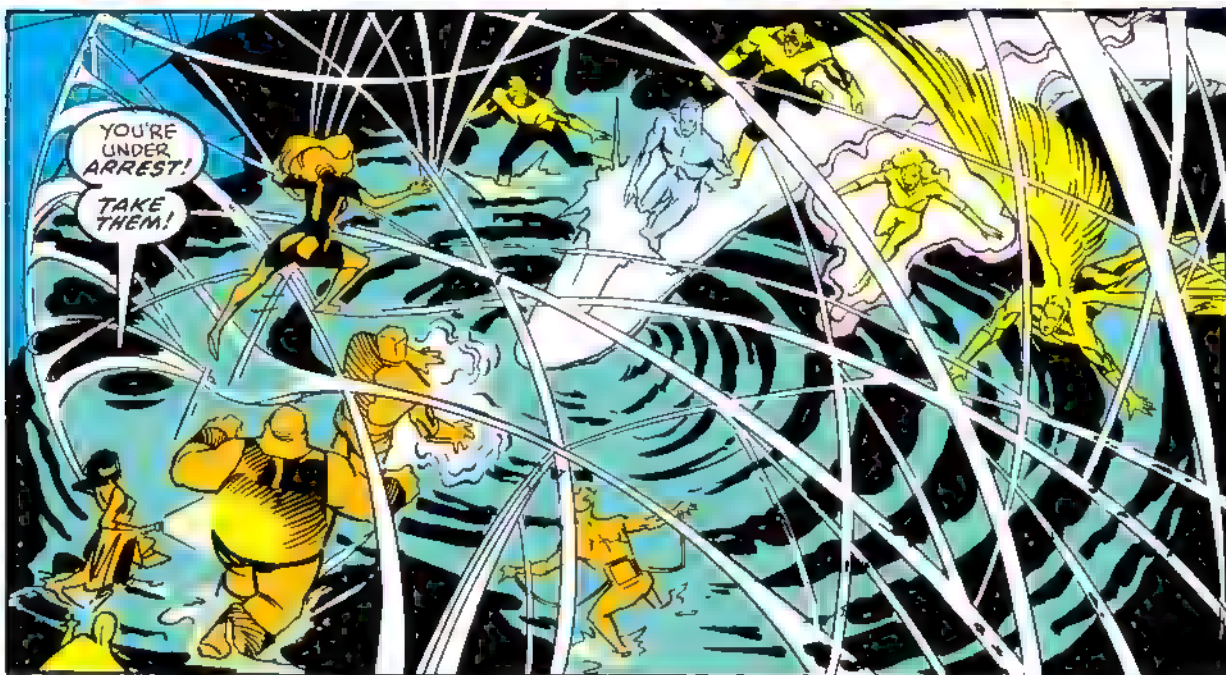
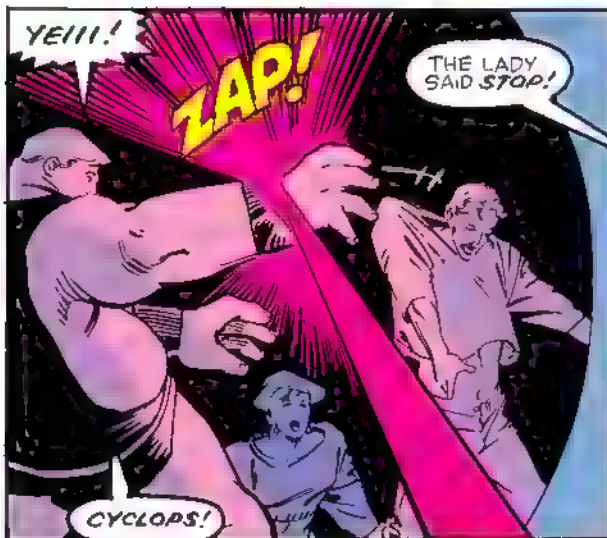


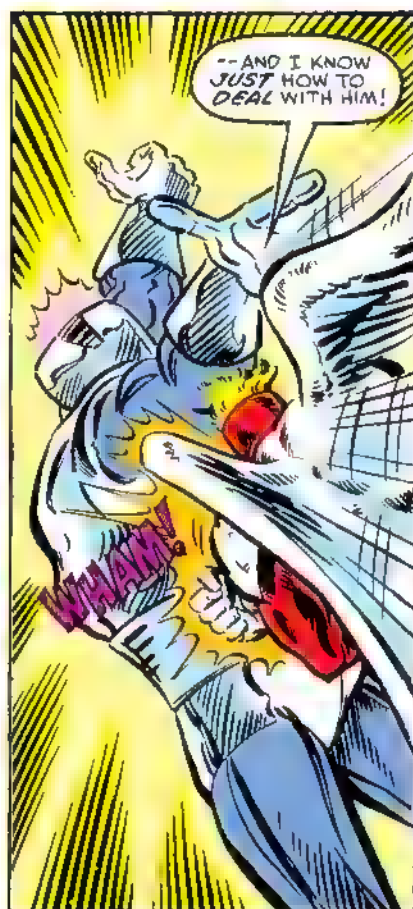
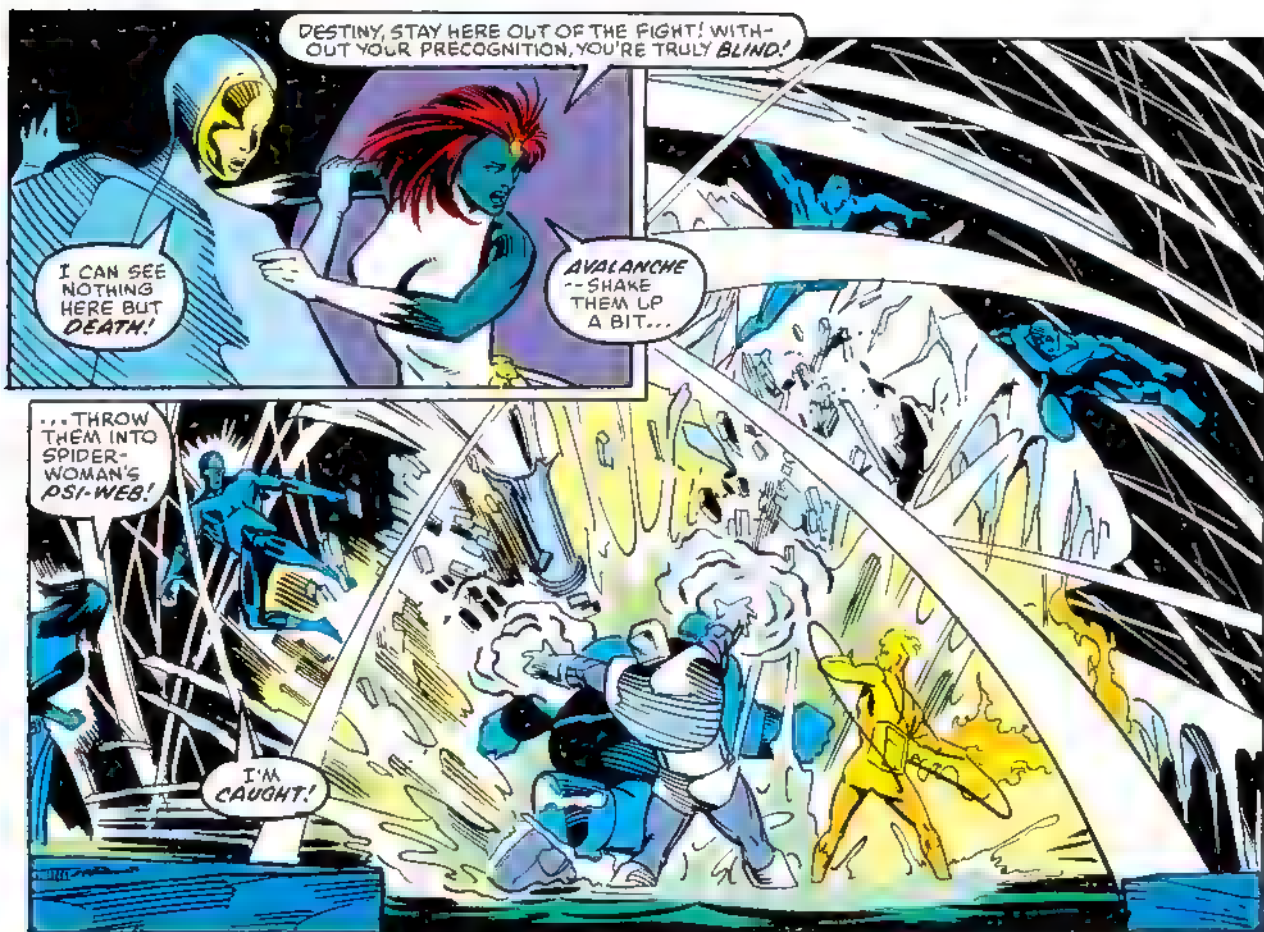
WHILE ELSEWHERE IN THE TUNNELS...

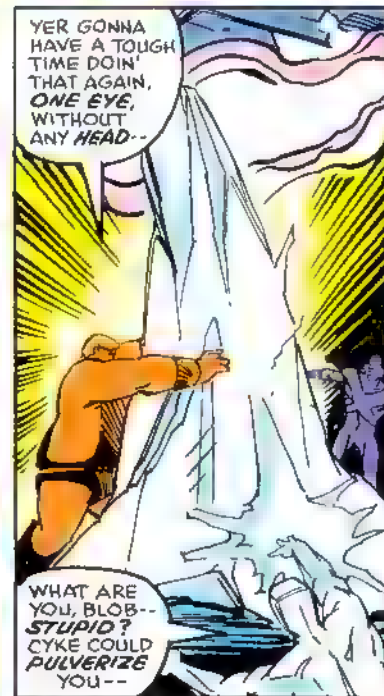
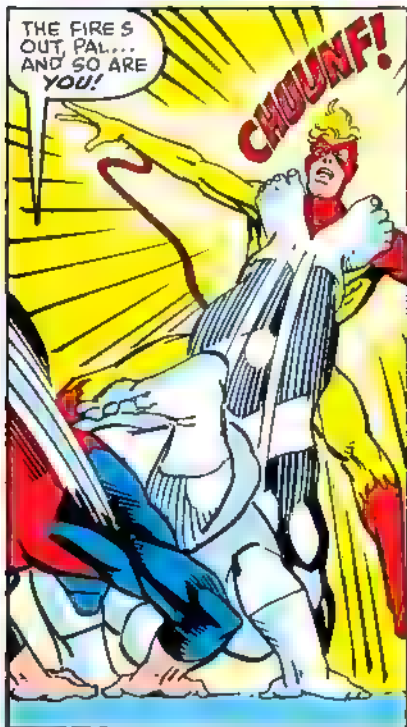
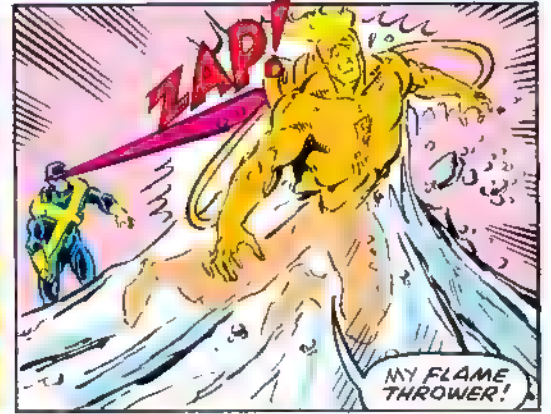
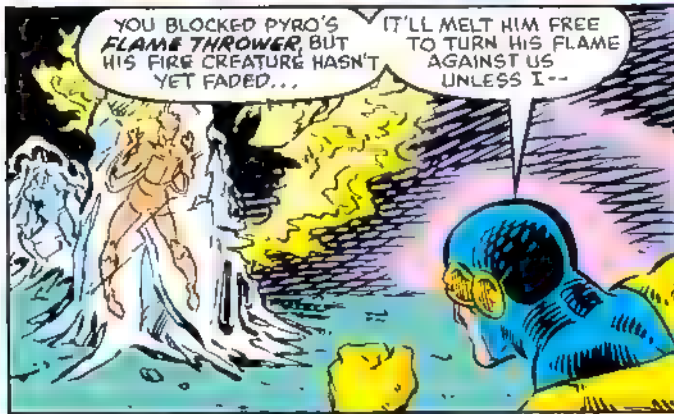
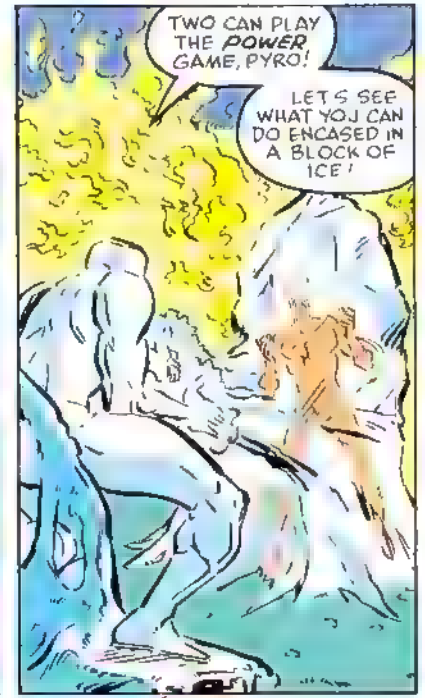
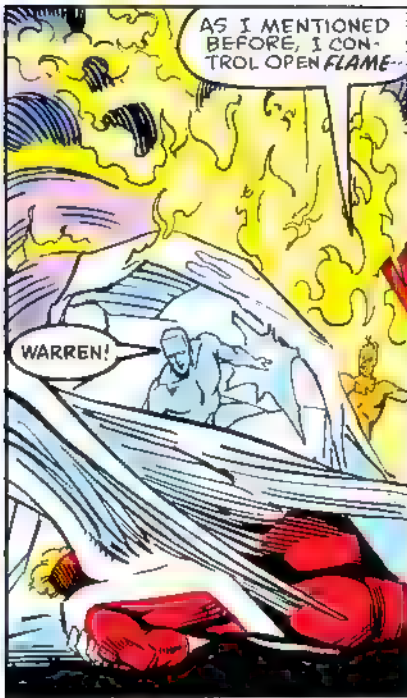


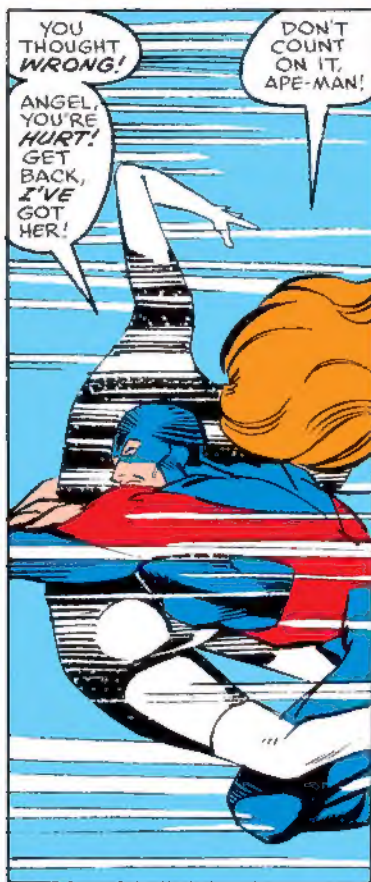
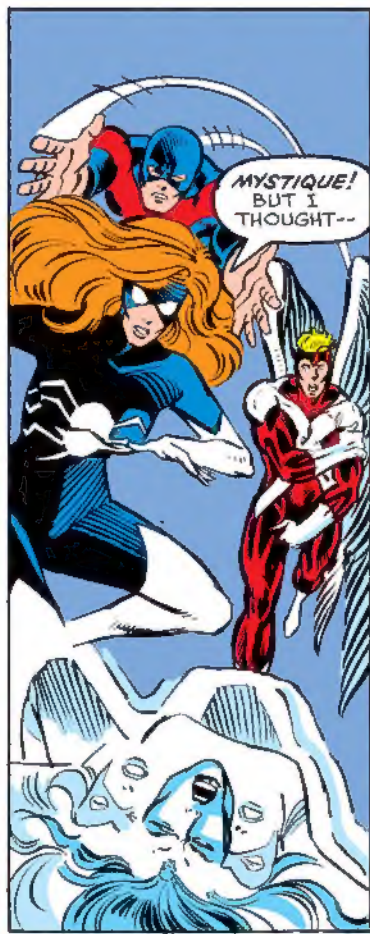
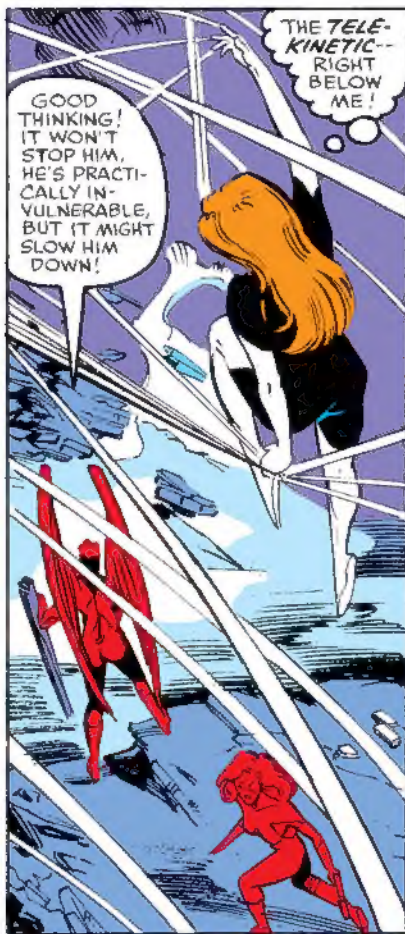
WHAT KIND OF
PLACE IS THIS,
ANYWAY?

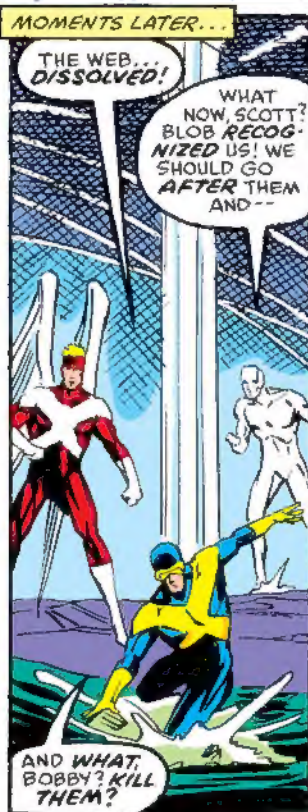
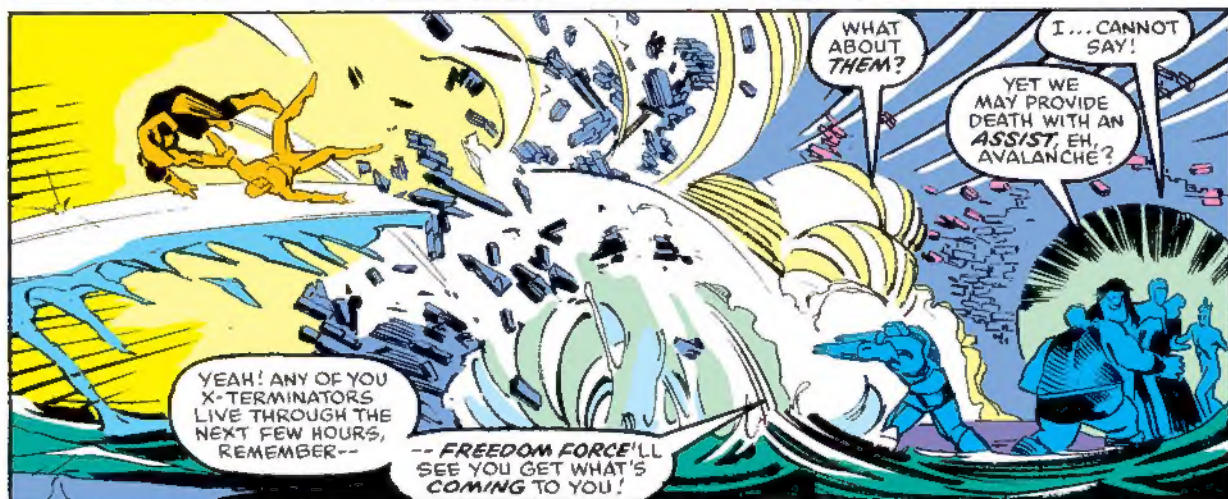
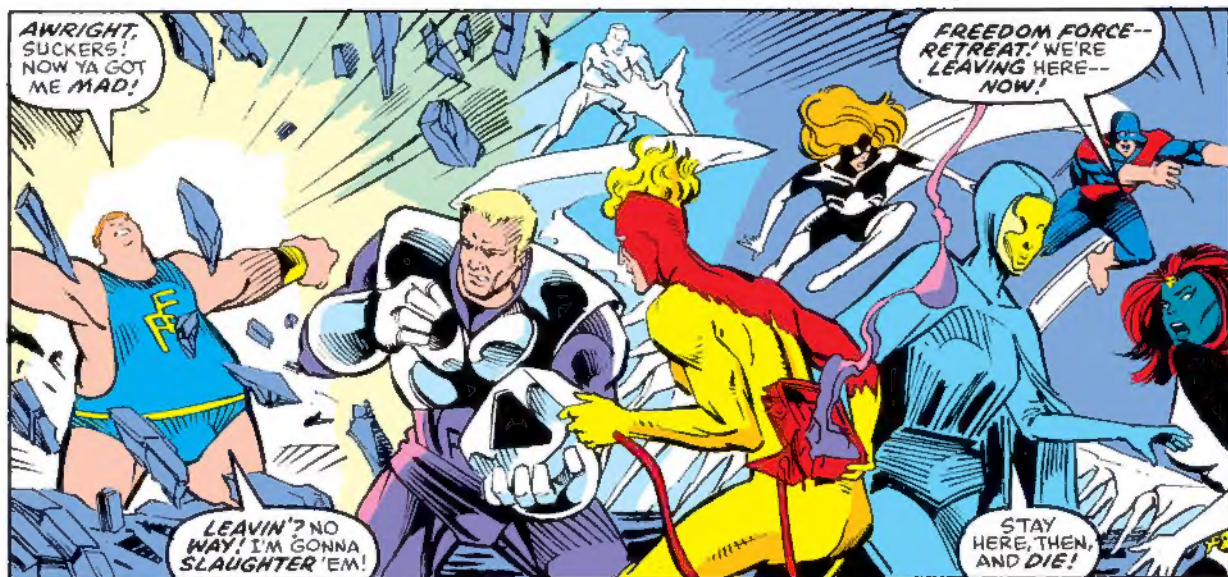


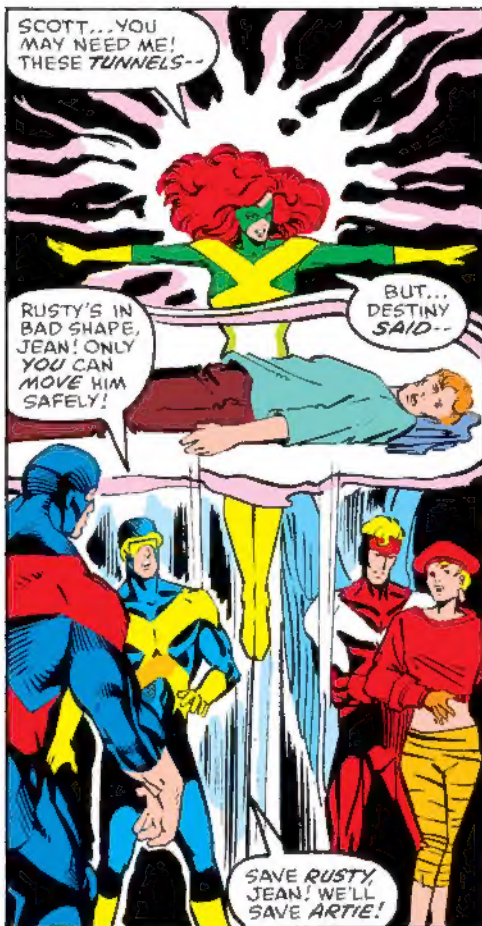












SCOTT...YOU MAY NEED ME! THESE TUNNELS--

RUSTY'S IN BAD SHAPE, JEAN! ONLY YOU CAN MOVE HIM SAFELY!

BUT... DESTINY SAID--

SAVE RUSTY, JEAN! WE'LL SAVE ARTIE!



I BLAME MYSELF! I TURNED MY BACK ON RUSTY, PRACTICALLY DROVE HIM DOWN HERE! AND ARTIE FOLLOWED TO SAVE HIS FRIEND...

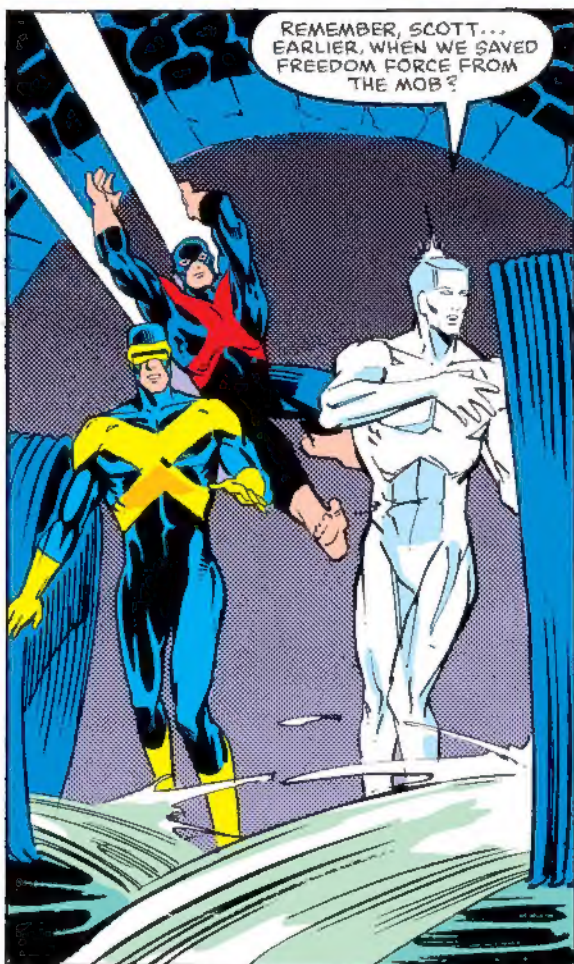
MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ALL OF US IF I DID DIE DOWN HERE! MY DREAMS... ALL OF THEM... THERE'S SO LITTLE LEFT!



COME ON, THEN! THE SOONER WE GET THERE-- HEY! I CAN'T HOLD ON TO YOU!

I KNOW! THAT'S WHY THEY CALL ME SKIDS!

BUT DON'T WORRY! I'LL KEEP UP! I CAN SKATE ON MY FORCE FIELD NEARLY AS FAST AS YOU CAN FLY!



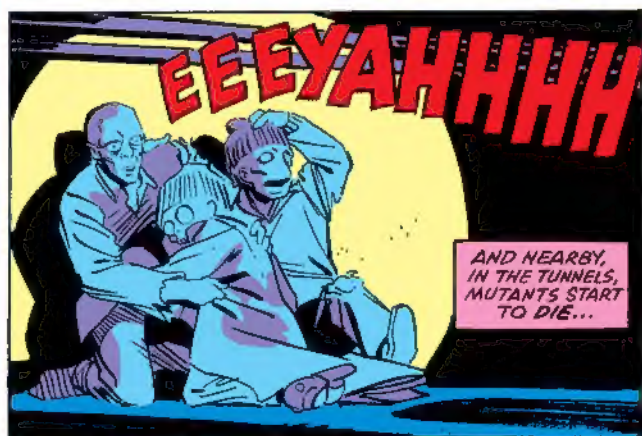
REMEMBER, SCOTT... EARLIER, WHEN WE SAVED FREEDOM FORCE FROM THE MOB?



I WISH WE'D LET THOSE PEOPLE STONE THEM!

EEEEYAAHH!

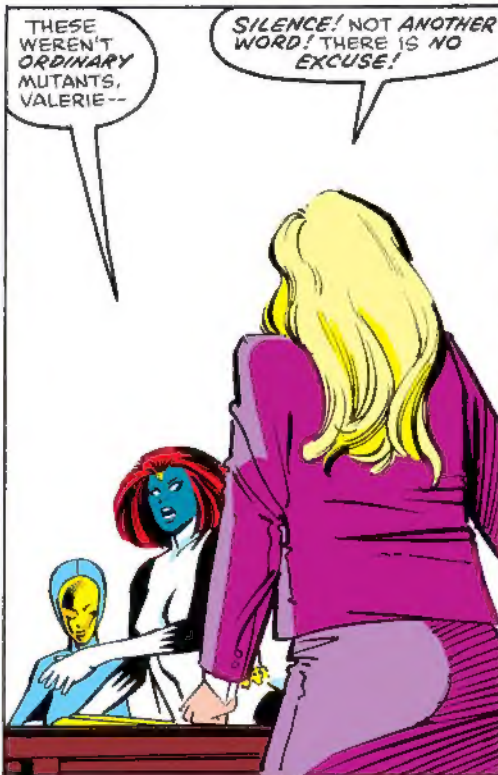
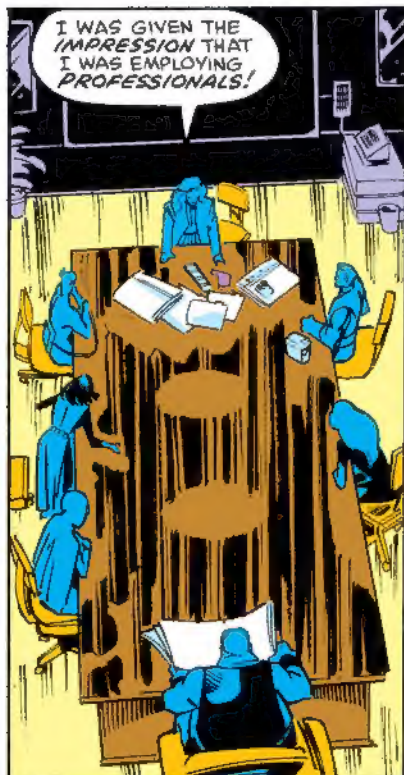
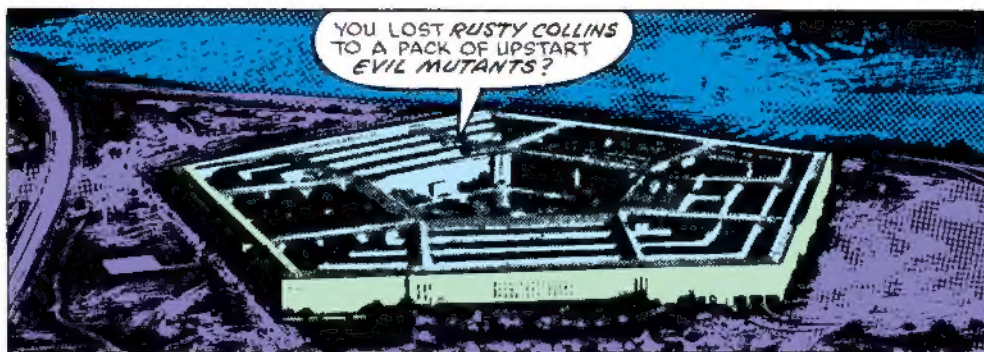
MY LORD! WHAT WAS THAT?



EEEEYAAHHHHH

AND NEARBY, IN THE TUNNELS, MUTANTS START TO DIE...

WHILE VERY SHORTLY, IN WASHINGTON, IN THE SECTION OF THE PENTAGON RUN BY VALERIE COOPER AND DEVOTED TO THE SPECIAL AGENCY KNOWN AS FREEDOM FORCE...



IN MANHATTAN, IN THE ALLEY MORLOCKS ARE DYING! SOME ARE DEAD ALREADY! TO LEARN WHO'S KILLING THEM, READ X-MEN# 211...

...AND DON'T MISS X-FACTOR#10-- AN EPIC OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION AS ONLY WALT SIMONSON COULD RENDER IT--

FALLEN ANGEL!

A COLLECTOR'S ITEM, FOR SURE! DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU!